

Ser. No. 10/089,746
Response to Office Action of 24 December 2003
Atty Docket 114402-5

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims so that the result is the following Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A connecting element for joining two support members absorbing tensile forces, said connecting element comprising:

at least a first and a second casing body with a through-hole in each said casing body for receiving the respective support members, which casing bodies can be joined together by way of a joining section at a first end of each casing body, an the opposing second end of each casing body being provided with a locking member for holding the support members fast,

wherein in a working position the locking member of at least one casing body produces an axial locking of the support member running through the casing body by way of a stop part created on the support member with the area of the second end of the casing body,

wherein the stop part is an upset part produced on the support member and having a diameter larger than a diameter of the support member;

wherein the through-hole is of stepped design with a first shoulder having a bevel, against which the stop part rests;

wherein the joining section of each casing body comprises means for joining the casing body to an intermediate part, and

wherein in a working position a recess in one of the casing bodies viewed in the longitudinal direction of the casing body and the intermediate part, aligns with a fixing unit and encloses the casing body, the fixing unit being arranged so that it can be fixed to the intermediate part, and a projecting member of the fixing unit being accommodated by the recess, so that the casing body can be torsionally locked to the intermediate part.

Claims 2-4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The connecting element of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the locking member comprises at least two casing parts which in the working position form a stop casing, which forms a second shoulder, against which the stop part rests.

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6. (previously presented) The connecting element according to claim 5, wherein the second shoulder is formed inside the stop casing.

Claims 7, 8 (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The connecting element according to claim 1 [[8]], wherein the projecting member of the fixing unit can be released so that it is not accommodated by the said recess, thereby allowing the casing body to be released from the intermediate part.

10. (currently amended) The connecting element of claim 9, wherein the joining section of the other at least one casing body is torsionally locked by means of a locking pin, which can be inserted through a hole through the said other casing body and the intermediate part.

11. (currently amended) A method for fitting a support member to a building construction by means of a connecting element, said method comprising the following steps:

passing a draw wire through a cable duct together with the connecting element, which comprises a first and a second casing body with a through-hole in each casing body for receiving respective support members, and which casing bodies can be joined together via a joining section at a first end of each casing body, an opposing second end of each casing body being provided with a locking member for holding the ~~support~~ support members fast so that the connecting element finishes up in an area of a first foundation;

connecting a bracing wire to the connecting element coupled to the draw wire;

passing the bracing wire through the cable duct in the opposite direction by means of the draw wire and the coupled connecting element, so that the connecting element finishes up in an area of a second foundation;

fastening the bracing wire to the first or second foundation; ~~and~~

detaching the connecting element from the bracing wire ;

applying each said casing body over a stop part produced on the respective support member;

fitting at least two casing parts around each support member;

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drawing each support member so that the stop part bears against the casing parts, which casing parts in a working position rest against an internal shoulder in the through-hole whilst the stop part rests against the casing parts in order to produce an axial locking of the draw wire and the bracing wire; and
joining at least one said casing body to an intermediate part.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 [[12]], further comprising the step of:
locking torsionally at least one of said casing bodies ~~body~~ to the intermediate part by means of a fixing unit arranged on the intermediate part, which fixing unit has a projecting member, which during coupling together the casing body and the intermediate part is released until a recess in the casing body, viewed in longitudinal direction of the casing body and the intermediate part, aligns with the fixing unit and encloses the casing body ~~latter~~, at which time the fixing unit with its projecting member is brought into engagement with the recess.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:
locking torsionally the other ~~at least one~~ said casing body to the intermediate part by means of a locking pin.

Claims 15-18 (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) The connecting element of claim 6, wherein the joining section of each the casing body comprises means for joining the casing body to an intermediate part.

Claims 20-23 (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) The connecting element of claim 19, wherein in a working position a recess in one of the casing bodies viewed in the longitudinal direction of the casing body and the intermediate part, aligns with a fixing unit and encloses the casing body, the fixing unit being arranged so that it can be fixed to the intermediate part, and a projecting member of the fixing

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unit being accommodated by the recess, so that the casing body can be torsionally locked to the intermediate part.

Claims 25-28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) The connecting element according to claim 24, wherein the projecting member of the fixing unit can be released so that it is not accommodated by the said recess, thereby allowing the casing body to be released from the intermediate part.

Claims 30-33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) The connecting element of claim 1, wherein the joining section of at least one of the casing bodies body is torsionally locked by means of a locking pin, which can be inserted through a hole through the casing body and the intermediate part.

35. (currently amended) The connecting element of claim 29, wherein the joining section of the other ~~at least one~~ casing body is torsionally locked by means of a locking pin, which can be inserted through a hole through said other ~~the~~ casing body and the intermediate part.

Claims 36-39. (cancelled)